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The Commission of Fine Arts
17 September 1954

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C. ON 17 SEPTEMBER 1954

The first meeting, second session, of the Commission of Fine Arts, during the fiscal year 1955, was continued in the Commission's offices in the Interior Department Building on Friday, 17 September 1954. The following Members were present:

David E. Finley, Chairman
Elbert Peets
Joseph Hudnut
George Biddle
Felix W. de Weldon
also L. R. Wilson, Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 9:30 a.m.

Proceedings:

1. CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION OF H. R. 1980 AND THE PROPOSED

CONSTITUTION AVENUE BRIDGE: Dr. Hudnut reintroduced the subject of the Constitution Avenue Bridge. The Chairman then said that it might be worthwhile to get Mr. Hermann Hagedorn, Secretary and Director of the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association, to come down here to discuss the matter, after a model is built to express the Commission's views.

Mr. Peets said he was afraid the Members would be unable to get a small, simplified model as he thought the District Commissioners would try to make the model as intricate as possible in order to cause delays. He said it was important to have a small model which clearly showed a water surface view.

Mr. de Weldon suggested that the Commission make the model themselves, rather than have General Prentiss' office do the work. This could be done

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Mr. de Weldon suggested that the Commission make the model themselves, rather than have General Prentiss' office do the work. This could be done

by making a rubber mold covering the desired area from the large model of Washington in the Lincoln Museum. It was decided to examine the model of Washington to determine if it is feasible to do this after meeting with Mr. John N. Robertson, Director of Highways, Department of Highways, District Building. It was decided not to contact the Roosevelt Memorial Association through Mr. Hagedorn until a model was completed.

Subsequent examination revealed that the model in the Lincoln Museum was not suitable for the purpose. Mr. Peets, however, assumed the responsibility of preparing a simple model and drawings himself.

2. HENRY VARNUM POOR AND THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION:

Mr. Biddle requested permission to make a short statement for the record concerning Mr. Henry Varnum Poor and the American Battle Monuments Commission. In a conversation with Mr. Biddle, Mr. Poor said that Senator Smith of Maine had sent a letter to the American Battle Monuments Commission asking why Mr. Poor had not received the contract to execute a decorative map in ceramics at the American Military Cemetery at Carthage, North Africa. Mr. Poor added that the Senator also wrote to General Marshall. General Marshall answered that the Battle Monuments Commission's refusal was based on a statement by Congressman George A. Dondero alleging that Mr. Poor was a member of such organizations as Artist's Congress and Artist's Equity and that he had been a founding editor of Reality Magazine.

3. GIFTS OFFERED TO THE UNITED STATES:

(a) BRONZE HEAD OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN BY GUTZON BORGLUM: At the 17 June 1954 meeting, it was decided that a silhouette model of the base should be built and a free-hand sketch of the head made and placed in the proposed location at the U. S. Court House for view by the Commission. This was

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3. GIFTS OFFERED TO THE UNITED STATES:

(a) Bronze Head of Abraham Lincoln by Gutzon Borglum: At the 17 June 1954 meeting, it was decided that a silhouette model of the base should be built and a free-hand sketch of the head made and placed in the proposed location at the U. S. Court House for view by the Commission. This was

done. Mr. Peets and Chairman Finley met with Mr. Allan S. Thorn, Acting Director, Design and Construction Division, Public Buildings Service, and Honorable Harold M. Stephens, Chief Judge, Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, on 15 July 1954 to see if a suitable installation could be found for the Lincoln head at the Court House site, since it had been decided that the proposed location behind the west fountain and in front of the cornerstone was unsuitable. After viewing other sites around the U. S. Court House, it was accordingly agreed that there was no suitable location around the building. It was agreed that the Chairman would send Mr. Thorn a letter indicating these circumstances and stating that further search for a more suitable site would be made (Exhibit A).

Among others, the Chairman informed Mr. H. G. Crim, Chief Usher at the White House, of Mr. Meyer's wish to donate the Lincoln head to the United States. Mr. Crim reported to the Chairman by letter dated 30 August 1954, that the White House would be glad to accept the gift for the President's Conference Room. Accordingly, Mr. Meyer was informed by the Chairman of the White House's acceptance of the gift (Exhibit A-1).

(b) EAGLE - BAS-RELIEF BY PIERRE BOURDELLE: The Chairman then read a letter from Mrs. Arthur Borden, One Beekman Place, New York 22, New York, offering a carved lucite panel depicting an eagle by Pierre Bourdelle to the United States Government. In her letter, Mrs. Borden stated that she and her husband would like to have it placed in the White House but, if this were not feasible, they would be happy to present it to any other suitable government building. The Chairman replied that he did not think the White House was a suitable place for it but he thought one of the

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Embassies abroad would appreciate it. He said he had asked the State Department to consider it and had sent photographs of the panel to them. After a discussion of the panel and various possible locations, it was decided that the Commission would approve the acceptance of it and would find some suitable place for it after hearing from the State Department. Mrs. Borden was informed accordingly by letter dated 20 September 1954 (Exhibit B).

(c) ILLUMINATED PAINTING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BY

ARTHUR SZYK: The Chairman then read a letter from Goldby and Byrne, Inc., 342 Madison Avenue, New York 17, New York, dated 20 August 1954, stating that Mrs. Julia Szyk wished to present an illuminated painting of the Declaration of Independence executed by her late husband, Arthur Szyk, to the United States, to be placed in the White House, the National Gallery of Art, or the Library of Congress. The donor wished to present the gift during the Jewish Tercentenary. The Chairman said he would inquire at the White House and the Library of Congress to see if they would accept the gift. A report was sent to Mr. H. Lee Goldby, President of the firm of Goldby and Byrne, Inc., dated 23 September 1954, informing him that the Commission recommended acceptance of the gift (Exhibit C).

(d) BUST OF JUDGE LOUIS BRANDEIS BY BASHKA PAEFF: Under date of 2 August 1954, a letter was received from Mrs. Maude Cooke, 1097 Humphrey Street, Swampscott, Massachusetts, in which Mrs. Cooke asked "Will you kindly advise me what are the special requirements to get permission to have a carrara marble bust of Judge Louis Brandeis put in its proper setting in Washington?" The Secretary replied to Mrs. Cooke and requested further details of the bust.

plans for new front addition-one story
for the Shoreham Hotel at 2500 Calvert St., NW
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(d) BUST OF JUDGE LOUIS BRANDEIS BY BASHKA PAPER: Under date of 2 August 1954, a letter was received from Mrs. Maud Cooke, 1097 Humphrey Street, Swampscott, Massachusetts, in which Mrs. Cooke asked "Will you kindly advise me what are the special requirements to get permission to have a carriage marble bust of Judge Louis Brandeis put in its proper setting in Washington?" The Secretary replied to Mrs. Cooke and requested further details of the bust.

Since no photograph or other specifications of the bust were yet at hand, the Commission decided to wait until more information could be obtained (Exhibit D).

(e) PORCELAIN PLATES: The Chairman then described to the Members a set of twenty-six porcelain plates which Mr. H. V. Van der Poel of 4500 Broad Branch Road, Northwest, Washington D. C., wished to present to the White House as a gift. The White House expressed a desire to have the plates which depicted the wives of the Presidents through Mrs. Wilson. The Commission approved the acceptance of the gift and Mr. Van der Poel was informed accordingly (Exhibit E).

4. ARCHITECTURAL SUBMISSIONS - SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT:

(a) PROCEDURE OF THE SECRETARY IN SHIPSTEAD-LUCE SUBMISSIONS:

The Secretary suggested that, in order not to hold up the submissions for long periods of time, he and the Chairman be authorized to pass on those which he thought would present no problem for discussion by the Members of the Commission. Mr. Biddle suggested that the question be left to the discretion of the Chairman.

This suggestion was accepted by the Commission.

(b) REPORT ON WORK: The Secretary reported to the Commission that the office had processed twenty cases since the last meeting; all relatively small except the proposed apartment house to be built at 2116 F St., Northwest (S. L. 1703) near the State Department Building, which case had been mailed to the Members before approval was granted.

The following applications were then submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for action:

S. L. 1690 - Revision of plans for new front addition-one story
for the Shoreham Hotel at 2500 Calvert St., NW
Submitted 2 August 1954. Approved 17 September 1954.

Since no photograph or other specifications of the work were put in hand, the Commission decided to wait until more information could be obtained (Exhibit D).

(e) PORCELAIN PLATES: The Chairman then described to the Members a set of twenty-six porcelain plates which Mr. H. V. van der Poel of 4500 Woodburn Road, Northwest, Washington D. C., wished to present to the White House as a gift. The White House expressed a desire to have the plates which depicted the lives of the Presidents through Mrs. Wilson. The Commission approved the acceptance of the gift and Mr. van der Poel was informed accordingly (Exhibit E).

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The following applications were then submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for action:

S. L. 1693 - Revision of plans for new front addition-one story for the Shoreham Hotel at 2500 Calvert St., NW
Submitted 1 August 1954. Approved 17 September 1954.

- S. L. 1696 - Remodel facade of restaurant at 1313 E St., NW
Submitted 25 August 1954. Approved, recommend brick instead of imitation stone, 17 September 1954.
- S. L. 1697 - Two temporary painted signs to be erected at
401 - 3rd St., NW
Submitted 3 September 1954. Approved 17 September 1954.
- S. L. 1698 - Remove existing circular bay on center of north
elevation and install picture window on the Shoreham
Hotel at 2500 Calvert St., NW
Submitted 8 September 1954. Approved 17 September 1954.
- S. L. 1699 - Renovation of alley dwellings at 217-237 B $\frac{1}{2}$ St., SW
Submitted 15 September 1954. Approved, recommend treatment of door frames and shutters be simplified, 17 September 1954.

(c) POLICY ON SIDEWALK RESTAURANTS: The Secretary read a letter

dated 15 September 1954, from Mr. Louis Sarno, proprietor of the Ten-Pen Restaurant at 945 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest, in which he requested information as to whether he would be allowed to operate an open window restaurant at that location where food could be dispensed to the public without their having to enter the building. The Members agreed that this would be undesirable but doubted whether the Fine Arts Commission had jurisdiction over this type of operation. Therefore it was agreed that the Secretary should contact the Superintendent of Permits, Department of Licenses and Inspections, District Building, and write a letter to the proprietor telling him that the Commission could not give an opinion without seeing a design for the front of the building but that it did not seem that such a type restaurant would be desirable on Pennsylvania Avenue.

The Office of Superintendent of Permits was contacted, and they requested the Secretary to forward the letter as a matter under their jurisdiction which was done.

5. GEORGETOWN COMMITTEE REPORT BY MR. MACOMBER AND MR. PETER:

Mr. Walter M. Macomber, Chairman, and Mr. Walter G. Peter, Member, both

2. I. 1996 - Remodel facade of restaurant at 1317 E. 24th St., NW. Submitted 25 August 1994. Approved, recommend brick instead of imitation stone, 17 September 1994.
2. I. 1997 - Two temporary painted signs to be erected at 1317 E. 24th St., NW. Submitted 17 September 1994. Approved 17 September 1994.
2. I. 1998 - Remove existing exterior sign on corner of south elevation and install picture window on the northern elevation at 2500 Calvert St., NW. Submitted 8 September 1994. Approved 17 September 1994.
2. I. 1999 - Renovation of brick building at 217-223 W. 24th St., NW. Submitted 17 September 1994. Approved, recommend removal of door frame and eavelets be simplified, 17 September 1994.

(c) EXISTING BUILDINGS: The Secretary has a list of

dated 17 September 1994, from Mr. Louis J. Davis, president of the National Restaurant Association, in which he requested information as to whether he would be allowed to operate a new restaurant at that location where food could be prepared for the public without their having to enter the building. The members agreed that this would be undesirable but decided whether the new restaurant would be constructed over the site of operation. Therefore it was agreed that the Secretary should conduct the investigation of the building, location of the building and inspection, building existing, and write a letter to the proprietor telling him that the Commission could not give an opinion without seeing a design for the front of the building and that if the new building could be constructed on the existing building.

Avenue.

The Office of Investigation of Buildings was contacted, and they requested the Secretary to forward the letter as a matter under their jurisdiction which was done.

2. COMMISSION REPORT TO THE NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION:

Mr. Walter A. Thomas, Chairman, and Mr. Walter A. Davis, Secretary, and

of the Old Georgetown Committee then were introduced to the Commission. They wished to give a resume on the activities of the Old Georgetown Committee and discuss some of the more pressing problems. Mr. Macomber briefed the Members of the Commission about the operations of the Committee. He stated that in the past four years over 1000 cases had been processed with only two appeals taken.

Mr. Macomber made two recommendations to the Commission: (1) A plan of the area designated in Public Law 808-81st Congress on which each building in the area could be marked, indicating what period it was built in and whether or not it was advisable to keep the building from being razed or altered, etc., and (2) A "before and after" photograph file of each project that was acted on by the Committee.

In order to finance these projects, Mr. Macomber cited the possibility of using the \$8000.00 mentioned in the law which was to have been appropriated for a survey to be made of the "Old Georgetown" area. This appropriation was never made. Mr. Macomber added that this money could be requested in the new appropriation bill, not necessarily for the survey, but rather for the work of the Georgetown Committee. Mr. Macomber said that if such a plan were available, prospective buyers of real estate could tell whether or not the property they purchased could be razed.

After discussing the problem, the Members agreed that the Chairman would write a letter to the District Commissioners asking them to carry out the authorization to make the survey (Exhibit F). The Commission also agreed that the Congress should be requested to supply sufficient funds to carry out the "photograph" plan suggested by Mr. Macomber. This could not, however, be done until fiscal year 1957.

of the Old Georgetown Commission then were introduced to the Commission. They wished to give a review of the activities of the Old Georgetown Commission and discuss some of the more pressing problems. Mr. Macomber presided over the meeting of the Commission about the operations of the Commission. He stated that in the past four years over 100 cases had been processed with only two appeals taken.

Mr. Macomber made two recommendations to the Commission: (1) A plan of the area designated in Article I of the Constitution on which such building in the area could be erected, indicating what period it was built in and whether or not it was desirable to keep the building from being used as a school, etc., and (2) a plan and a photograph of the site of each project that was acted on by the Commission.

In order to finance these projects, Mr. Macomber stated the possibility of using the \$250,000 mentioned in the law which was to have been applied for a survey to be made of the Old Georgetown area. This money was never made. Mr. Macomber stated that this money could be requested in the new appropriation bill, and something for the survey, but rather for the work of the Georgetown Commission. Mr. Macomber said that if such a plan were available, a complete picture of each estate could tell whether or not the property was purchased could be made.

After discussing the problem, the members agreed that the Chairman would write a letter to the District Commissioners asking them to carry out the authorization to make the survey (Article I). The Commission also agreed that the Commission should be requested to carry out the survey. This could not, however, be done until fiscal year 1957.

The entire group then discussed the difficulties which the George--town Committee faced in trying to carry out its duties, particularly the easy means a petitioner has to appeal to the District Commissioners when his petition is turned down by this Committee; and also the futility that arises when the petitioner is refused permission to raze a building because there is no means by which the government can purchase the property, as is done in many countries.

To illustrate the points in question, the following cases were referred to the Commission of Fine Arts for information and review:

- O. G. 915 - Raze dwellings at 3601-03 "O" St., NW
Submitted 23 August 1954. Disapproved 13 October 1954.
- O. G. 916 - Raze dwellings at 3624-26 "O" St., NW
Submitted 23 August 1954. Approved 14 September 1954.

After discussing the problem, the Commission approved the action of the Committee.

6. PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO D. C. GENERAL HOSPITAL: Mr. Merrel A. Coe, Supervising Architect, Department of Buildings and Grounds, District of Columbia, appeared before the Commission to present preliminary plans for two new additions to the D. C. General Hospital.

The first plan showed a 300 bed Tuberculosis Building for ambulatory patients. Mr. Coe described the building in detail, and after some discussion, the Members approved the plans.

The second plan was for a Psychiatric Building for 250 patients. Mr. Coe also described this building and told of the plans to have enclosed and landscaped courts for the patients. The design for this building was also approved. A formal report was not sent to Mr. Coe since verbal report of approval was given at the meeting, and since the drawings presented were preliminary.

The entire report was discussed and the Committee decided to refer the same to the Committee on the subject of the same, and to report thereon at the next meeting of the Committee. The Committee on the subject of the same, and to report thereon at the next meeting of the Committee. The Committee on the subject of the same, and to report thereon at the next meeting of the Committee.

As is done in many countries. To illustrate and point in question, the following cases were referred to the Commission of the same for information and review:

- O. G. 215 - Base dwellings at 3601-03 "0" St., NW. Submitted 23 August 1934. Disapproved 13 October 1934.
- O. G. 216 - Base dwellings at 3624-26 "0" St., NW. Submitted 23 August 1934. Approved 14 September 1934.

After discussion the Committee, the Commission approved the action of the Committee.

6. PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO D. C. GENERAL HOSPITAL, Mr. David A. Cox, Supervising Architect, Department of Buildings and Grounds, District of Columbia, appeared before the Commission to present preliminary plans for two new additions to the D. C. General Hospital. The first plan showed a 300 bed bacteriology building for infectious patients. Mr. Cox described the building in detail, and after some discussion, the Members approved the plans.

The second plan was for a 200 bed bacteriology building for infectious patients. Mr. Cox also described this building and said of the plans to give an idea of the building. The design for this building was also approved. A formal report was made to the Commission, and since the formal report of approval was given at the meeting, and since the formal report were preliminary.

7. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE: The Secretary then introduced Mr. Waldron Faulkner of the firm of Faulkner, Kingsbury and Stenhouse, Architects. Mr. Faulkner had brought with him a model of a proposed building near Scott Circle for preliminary review by the Commission. When completed, the building will be the headquarters for the American Association for the Advancement of Science. It will replace a group of old buildings which are now located on the site and which are used as office buildings by this association. Mr. Faulkner described the proposed building explaining certain features of the design which would avoid giving it the appearance of a commercial office building. The plans were, in general, accepted by the Commission. Mr. Faulkner thanked the Commission for its consideration and said its recommendations would be most helpful in preparing the finished design.

8. POSTAGE STAMP COMPETITION: The Chairman then asked the Secretary to read a letter dated 10 September 1954, from Dr. Fiske Kimball, Director, Philadelphia Museum of Art, to Mr. Robert E. Fellers, Director, Division of Philately, Post Office Department (Exhibit G) in which Dr. Kimball formally withdrew from taking part in the Postage Stamp Competition. The Secretary said that Mr. Fellers, who was in San Francisco, had told him over the telephone that he hoped that he and Mr. Robertson could meet with the Commission of Fine Arts when he returned to Washington.

Mr. Biddle suggested that the Members canvass a few names of other men who might be asked to take the place of Dr. Kimball. He suggested Henri Marceau, Associate Museum Director, Philadelphia Museum of Art; Robert B. Hale, Associate Curator of Paintings and Sculpture, Metropolitan Museum of Art; R. Sturgis Ingersoll, Philadelphia Museum of Art. Other

7. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN: The

very soon interested Mr. William F. Baker of the City of Baltimore, Maryland and Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Baker had brought with him a model of a proposed building near West Circle for preliminary review by the Commission. When completed, the building will be the headquarters for the national association for the advancement of women. It will replace a group of old buildings which are now located on the site and which are used as office buildings by this association. Mr. Baker described the proposed building explaining various features of the design which would avoid giving it the appearance of a commercial office building. The plans were, in general, approved by the Commission. Mr. William F. Baker for the Commission and said his recommendations would be most helpful in preparing the final design.

8. POSTAGE STAMP COMMISSION: The Commission then turned the Secretary

to read a letter dated 10 September 1954, from Mr. Philip H. Henshaw, Philadelphia Bureau of Post, to Mr. Robert E. Miller, Director, Division of Postage, Post Office Department (Bureau 1) in which Mr. Henshaw formally withdrew from taking part in the Postage Stamp Competition. The Secretary said that Mr. Miller, who was in the presence, had said that over the telephone that he hoped that he and Mr. Henshaw could meet with the Commission of the time when he returned to Washington.

Mr. Henshaw suggested that the Secretary submit a few names of other men who might be asked to take the place of Mr. Henshaw. He suggested Mr. Henshaw, Associate National Director, Philadelphia Bureau of Post; Robert E. Miller, Associate Director of Finance and Accounting, Philadelphia Bureau of Post; Mr. Henshaw, Philadelphia Bureau of Post, when

names suggested were Edgar Kaufmann, Jr., Museum Curator, Museum of Modern Art; Rene d'Harnoncourt, Museum Director, Museum of Modern Art; Charles Nagel, Jr., Museum Director, Brooklyn Museum; Hermann W. Williams, Jr., Museum Director, Corcoran Gallery of Art; L. Quincy Mumford, Librarian of Congress.

The Chairman asked the Secretary to call Mr. Fellers as soon as he returned in order to arrange a time for a discussion of choosing another man to take Dr. Kimball's place.

9. INTERVIEW WITH MR. PEASLEE RELATIVE TO THE ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, THE NEVIUS TRACT AND THE FIRST DIVISION MONUMENT: Mr. Horace Peaslee, Architect, then appeared before the Members to discuss several topics. The first topic pertained to the visit the Members made to the St. John's Church on 16 September 1954. He hoped the Chairman would write a letter to Mr. Henderson B. Gregory, Chairman, Buildings and Grounds Committee, St. John's Church, containing the recommendations made by the Commission relative to renovations at St. John's Church. The Chairman then agreed to write a personal letter to Mr. Gregory, urging him to carry out Mr. Peaslee's plans for renovating the Church (Exhibit H).

Mr. Peaslee also asked Mr. Biddle to comment on what color he thought suitable for the window trim of the brownstone house. After some discussion it was suggested that the present color of the brownstone be retained.

The second topic discussed was the progress of the planting at the Nevius Tract. Mr. Peaslee explained that the planting was being held up because of labor trouble. Mr. Peaslee stated that the larger part of the tree planting would not be done in time for the dedication of the Marine Memorial. He then submitted to the Commission for its files a print of the landscape plan.

1. The following are the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various positions in the Department of the Interior:

The Chairman asked the Secretary to call Dr. Bellini as soon as he returned in order to arrange a time for a discussion of choosing another man to take Dr. Kimball's place.

Mr. Peckham's plans for renovating the church (Exhibit 2).

to write a pastoral letter to Mr. Gregory, urging him to carry out

relative to renovations at St. John's Church. The Chairman then agreed

St. John's Church, containing the recommendations made by the Commission

to Mr. Newman, B. Gregory, Chairman, Building and Grounds Committee,

Church on 12 September 1954. He asked the Chairman would write a letter

The first copies pertained to the visit the members made to the St. John's

received, then appeared before the members to discuss several copies.

THE NEWING TRACT AND THE FIRST DIVISION HOUSES: Mr. Newman presented

9. INTERVIEW WITH MR. GREGORY RELATIVE TO THE ST. JOHN'S CHURCH,

the landscape plan.

The third topic discussed was the First Division Monument. Mr. Peaslee stated that the monument was so enmeshed in trees that it could hardly be seen and was not visible from Constitution Avenue as was intended. The recent disappearance of the temporary wartime buildings from around the monument was noted with satisfaction, and the Chairman suggested that some of the trees might be taken out. The Secretary stated he would talk to the office of National Capital Parks about the matter.

There being no other business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

[illegible]

St. J. S. B. M.

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

July 16, 1954

Dear Mr. Thorne:

Mr. Peets and I were very glad to meet with you and Judge Stevens yesterday at the United States Court of the District of Columbia and to consult as to whether a suitable installation could be found for the sculptural head of Abraham Lincoln by Borglum, which is now the property of Mr. Eugene Meyer.

As we agreed, there is no suitable location on the exterior of the Court House where the bust could be seen to advantage, and this applies also to the interior of the building. I feel, therefore, that we should hold the matter in abeyance until the next meeting of the Commission and, in the interval, the Commission will try to find a more suitable location in some public building in Washington.

I talked with Mr. Meyer yesterday on the telephone, and he agrees that this is the best way in which to proceed. If this is agreeable to your office and to Judge Stevens, I will bring the matter before the Commission at our September meeting; meanwhile, the bust can remain in storage at the National Gallery of Art until a suitable installation can be provided elsewhere.

For The Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. Allan Stewart Thorne
Acting Director
Design and Construction Division
Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Washington, D. C.

def/v

EXHIBIT A

7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

July 16, 1954

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For The Commission of Fine Arts:

Mr. Allan Stewart Thorne
Acting Director
Design and Construction Division
Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Washington, D. C.

del/v

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

27 September 1954

Dear Mr. Meyer:

I am sorry to have been so long in writing you about the placing of your bust of Abraham Lincoln by Gutzon Borglum. The White House would be delighted to receive it as a gift and will place it in the large Conference Room near the Cabinet Room. I think it will look well there and I hope this decision pleases you, as it does me.

The room is now being re-painted and as soon as I am advised, I will send the bust to the White House with the present temporary pedestal on which it rests now in the storage room at the National Gallery.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. Eugene Meyer
1624 Crescent Place, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

def/pav

COPY

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
1000 THE GREAT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Director

Mr. Meyer
Room 6000
Washington, D. C.

del/pav

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

20 September 1954

Dear Mrs. Borden:

At a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, which was held last week, the members were very glad to see the photograph of Pierre Bourdelle's EAGLE, which you were kind enough to show me in New York. The Commission would be glad to see this work of art become the property of the Federal Government, and I hope soon to have a suggestion as to where it could be shown to greatest advantage. The Commission felt that probably the EAGLE would be more suitable for one of our embassies abroad than it would be for the White House.

I shall write you again in a short time, and with many thanks for your kind letter, I am

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mrs. Arthur Borden
One Beekman Place
New York 22, New York

def/b

cc-Mr. L. R. Wilson

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Dear Mrs. Borden:

At a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, which was held last week, the members were very glad to see the photograph of Pierre Bonvallet's eagle, which you were kind enough to show me in New York. The Commission would be glad to see this work of art become the property of the Federal Government, and I hope soon to have a suggestion as to where it could be shown to greatest advantage. The Commission felt that probably the eagle would be more suitable for one of our embassies abroad than it would be for the White House. I shall write you again in a short time, and with many thanks for your kind letter, I am

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Arthur Borden
New York 22, New York

del/b

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

September 23, 1954

Dear Mr. Goldby:

I have received your letter of August 20th and have waited to reply until it could be considered by the Commission of Fine Arts at the meeting held on September 16th. I showed the members the photograph of the copy of the Declaration of Independence which has been hand lettered and illuminated in color with marginal sketches by the late Arthur Szyk. I understand the painting is being offered as a gift to the Nation, and it is desired to present it at the White House during the Jewish Tercentenary, as the work of an American artist of the Jewish Faith.

The Commission were favorably impressed with the painting and would be glad to recommend it for acceptance and installation in some suitable building. It would be necessary to know first, however, the name of the organization or individual who will make the donation, and I would appreciate it if you would send me this information so that it may be incorporated in the recommendation of the Commission.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. H. Lee Goldby
President
Goldby & Byrne, Inc.
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, New York

def/b

cc: Mr. Wilson

EXHIBIT C

COPY

COMMISSION OF THE AMERICAN

Dear Mr. Goldby:

I have received your letter of August 20th and have waited to reply until it could be considered by the Commission of Fine Arts at the meeting held on September 10th. I showed the members the photograph of the copy of the Declaration of Independence which has been hand lettered and illuminated in color with marginal sketches by the late Arthur Gayk. I understand the painting is being offered as a gift to the Nation, and it is desired to present it at the White House during the Jewish Tercentenary, as the work of an American artist of the Jewish Faith.

The Commission would be glad to recommend it for acceptance and installation in some suitable building. It would be necessary to know first, however, the name of the organization or individual who will make the donation, and I would appreciate it if you would send me this information so that it may be incorporated in the recommendation of the Commission.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. H. Lee Goldby
President
Goldby & Byrne, Inc.
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, New York

def/p

cc: Mr. Wilson

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

10 August 1954

Dear Mrs. Cooke:

The Commission of Fine Arts is the agency which advises the Government regarding the acceptance and placement of works of art from private donors.

I will be happy to submit to the Commission, at the next meeting on 23 September 1954, your proposal for placing a replica of the Judge Brandeis bust in some suitable location in Washington. Will you kindly furnish me a set of photographs showing the bust and further details indicating the dimensions, the color of the marble, the type of base, and the weight, if possible?

Unfortunately there are no governmental funds available to defray any of the costs involved, so that the expense of shipping and any special work required in the placement must also be borne by the donor.

Yours very truly,

L. R. Wilson
Secretary

Mrs. Maude Cooke
1097 Humphrey Street
Swampscott, Massachusetts

EXHIBIT D

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington, D. C.

10 August 1954

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Yours very truly,

L. R. Wilson
Secretary

Mrs. Maud Cooke
1097 Humphrey Street
Washington, D. C.

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

23 September 1954

Dear Mr. Van der Poel:

At a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on September 16th, I told the members of your generous offer to give to the White House a set of twenty-six porcelain plates, each containing a portrait of the wife of one of the Presidents. The Commission felt that these plates would be most suitable for the White House and would be of great interest. They were glad to recommend them and I have so advised Mr. H. G. Crim of the White House staff, who tells me he will be glad to receive the plates at any time that may be convenient to you.

I should like to thank you for this generous gift and with kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. H. V. Van der Poel
4500 Broad Branch Road, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

def/b

cc- Mr. Wilson

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

23 September 1954

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At a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on September 16th, I told the members of your generous offer to give to the White House a set of twenty-six porcelain plates, each containing a portrait of the wife of one of the Presidents. The Commission felt that these plates would be most suitable for the White House and would be of great interest. They were glad to recommend them and I have so advised Mr. H. G. Cohn of the White House staff, who tells me he will be glad to receive the plates at any time that may be convenient to you.

I should like to thank you for this generous gift and with kind regards, I am

David E. Finley

Mr. H. V. Van der Poel
4500 Broad Branch Road, N. W.

def/p

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D.C.

7 October 1954

Dear Mr. Spencer:

Public Law 808 81st Congress provides that a survey shall be made of the "Old Georgetown" area to assist the Commission of Fine Arts and the Board of Architectural Review in carrying out the provisions of the Act. The sum of \$8000.00 was authorized for the purpose, but to date, no survey has been made.

The need for such a survey is increasingly urgent to assist the Commission and the Board in determining which buildings should be preserved. The desire of owners and others to raze and obliterate buildings whose preservation was the intent of the law, makes it imperative that some definite and official standard be set to serve as a basis of judgment in considering such applications.

We hope, therefore, that steps may be taken to allocate the stated sum of \$8,000.00 and to have appropriate agents proceed with the survey. Before proceeding with the work, we would be glad to have the agents confer with the Commission of Fine Arts in order to determine the most useful form in which to present the survey.

With many thanks for your assistance in this matter, I am

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Samuel Spencer
Board of Commissioners
District Building
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F

7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D.C.

7 October 1954

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With many thanks for your assistance in this matter, I am

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley

Honorable Samuel Spencer
Board of Commissioners
District Building
Washington, D. C.

C O P Y

September 10, 1954

Mr. Robert E. Fellers
Assistant Post Master General
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fellers:

When we talked last in Washington on June 17, regarding the proposed effort to secure new designs for a series of postage stamps, I told you I was coming to the conclusion that I should withdraw from the whole matter. You, and also Mr. Caemmerer of the Commission of Fine Arts, very kindly urged me not to withdraw definitely at that time, but to think it over while abroad this summer, and decide in the autumn.

This I have done, and regret to say that I must keep to my decision, in the negative.

I became aware that it would require very much more of my time, and especially for me to be in Washington very much more than I had ever anticipated. I can see, too, that there is still much more persuasion involved in many directions and that I would have much responsibility without corresponding authority.

All this, with my full-time job in Philadelphia, I cannot take on, and it is not even fair to expect me to do so - in spite of the desirability of the general objective.

With regret, and expression of the real pleasure I have had in meeting you,

Yours sincerely,

Fiske Kimball
Director

eh

CC: Commission of Fine Arts, New Interior Bldg., Washington
Mr. Finley, C/O National Gallery

EXHIBIT G

September 10, 1924

Mr. Robert E. Fellers
Assistant Post Master General
Washington, D. C.

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All this, with my full-time job in Philadelphia, I cannot take on, and it is not even fair to expect me to do so - in spite of the desirability of the general objective.

With regret, and expression of the real pleasure I have had in meeting you,

Yours sincerely,

Wm. A. Rorer

eh

CC: Commission of Fine Arts, New Interior Bld., Washington

Mr. Henderson Gregory THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
September 20, 1954 7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D.C.

pg.2

American Automobile Association September 20, 1954
for the preservation and restoration of this important building. I should like to add, as a member of St. John's Parish and because of my great interest in the Church, my own satisfaction at the acquisition of the Church to its former beauty, as designed by Latrobe.

My dear Henderson:

The Commission of Fine Arts were glad to meet with you and Horace Peaslee at St. John's Church on September 16th, and to examine the plans for the proposed alterations on the exterior of the Church.

The Commission were most favorably impressed by the plans and approved them as submitted. They were sorry, as I know you are also, that the alterations could not include the changes in the organ loft block, and hope that eventually funds may be available for this purpose, so that this projection may be eliminated and there can be a re-location of the organ facilities.

The Commission agreed with the point raised by the architect and also Dr. Hudnut, with reference to the fenestration of the south transept, which they felt would be greatly improved by the elimination of the two oversize windows flanking the semi-circular arch. If funds are not available to restucco the south side of the transept as well as the west side, then the proposed sunk panels and lintels, we realize, must be retained until conditions permit carrying out these plans.

def/b The Commission approved the side return of the bay cornice and its use on the connecting link between the Church and the Parish House. It was felt the extension should be stuccoed, as is the case with the east chancel wall, in order that the extension might count as part of the Church. The exterior treatment of the Palladian window was approved with the hope that the exterior lighting could be achieved from the Parish House wall rather than from the Church. The Commission hoped that the "brownstone" house could remain as it is at present.

As regards the proposed planting, the Commission felt that this would be helpful in subordinating the corner bay of the Church and in reducing the dominance of the Veterans Administration Building. A minor point noted was the sketch for the original square windows in the sides of the transept (only one of which remains), at the east side of the north gallery. If it is not considered feasible to restore the other three, it would be desirable for both windows in the north gallery to conform to the original design of Latrobe.

The members of the Commission asked me to say that they were delighted with the plans which the Vestry of St. John's Church are making

EXHIBIT H

EXHIBIT H

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D.C.

September 30, 1954

My dear Henderson:

The Commission of Fine Arts were glad to meet with you and Horace Peaslee at St. John's Church on September 16th, and to examine the plans for the proposed alterations on the exterior of the Church.

The Commission were most favorably impressed by the plans and approved them as submitted. They were sorry, as I know you are also, that the alterations could not include the changes in the organ loft block, and hope that eventually funds may be available for this purpose, so that this projection may be eliminated and there can be a re-location of the organ facilities.

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Index to Minutes of Meeting
The Commission of Fine Arts
10 November 1954

pg.2

Mr. Henderson Gregory
September 20, 1954

American Automobile Association
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With kind regards, I am

Biddle, George

see Commission of Fine Arts

Sincerely yours,

Commission of Fine Arts

Resignation of George Biddle

Recommendation of National Music Council to appoint
a music representative to the Commission

David E. Finley

Inspection of Fourteenth Street Bridge

Chairman

Increased membership and expanded functions of
Commission (See Legislation)

Mr. Henderson Gregory FY 1956, report on
Chairman, Building Committee turn of
St. John's Parish
2121 Massachusetts Avenue Memorial
Washington, D. C. legislation

def/b Legislation

Public Law 704/83rd C - authorizing central zone

cc - Mr. Horace Peaslee

Mr. L. R. Wilson

Draft legislation - to enlarge membership and expand
functions of Commission of Fine Arts

Draft legislation- appointment of Commissioner for

National War Memorial auditorium

Public Law 742/83rd C - establishing a memorial
for the Five Freedoms Memorial

Marine Corps War Memorial

Dedication ceremonies

National War Memorial Auditorium

See Legislation

Postage Stamp design

Discussion of

Competition not to be held

EXHIBIT H

Mr. Henderson Gregory
September 20, 1954

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With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

David H. Finley
Chairman

Mr. Henderson Gregory
Chairman, Building Committee
St. John's Parish
2121 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C.